



Senate Majority Office

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GROUNDHOG DAY: Senate Republicans Repeat Their 2020 “Grievous Miscalculation”

SALEM, Ore - Last week, the Senate Minority Leader said his caucus would [refuse to do their constitutional duty](#) to vote on the Senate floor for another month, while collecting their taxpayer-funded salaries. He and his caucus again moved the goalposts on negotiating an end to the unconstitutional walkout by threatening to veto all but unspecified “budgets and bills” the day the 2023 legislative session ends.

To comply with these demands, the Senate would need to suspend its own rules and silence debate on all legislation, robbing Oregonians of a transparent democratic process.

Republicans attempted this [exact same tactic in 2020](#) with [terrible results](#). The [Oregonian Editorial Board called it](#) a “grievous miscalculation,” saying: “Clearly, Republican legislators didn’t just go out of state – they visited another planet. One on which they apparently are the majority power in the Legislature and call all the shots.”

The Editorial Board added: “If Republicans want to have the power of the majority, then they need to win it. That’s how our democracy works. But it’s hard to see how they can build a convincing case that they merit such power when they won’t even report to work.”

“Functionally, this is a power grab by a handful of extreme politicians who want to overturn the will of the voters who did not put them in charge,” said **Senate Majority Leader Kate Lieber (D – Beaverton & SW Portland)**. “If the people of Oregon supported their out-of-step agenda, they would have voted for it.”

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